(b) An International Convention Centre is proposed to be set up at Mumbai by a Joint Venture Company with participation by five star hoteliers of Mumbai and Airports Authority of India. The proposal is in the context of the annoucement in the Budget Speech for the year 2003-04 wherein the Government propose to provide a major thrust to infrastructure through innovative funding mechanisms. The comprehensive initiative will *inter alia* include two global standard international convention centres.

Task force on infrastructure

2870. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether upgradation of major metro airports in India to world class standards was one of the mandates given by the Task Force on Infrastructure, set up by the Prime Minister in 1998; and

(b) if so, the details of progress made by the Ministry of Civil Aviation from 1998 till date in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Task Force on Infrastructure on 9.12.1998 recommended that airports at Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore be corporatised. Based on this recommendation, Government of India in January, 1999 decided to corporatise the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, besides construction of Greenfield Airport at Bangalore. Considering the compIexities involved in corporatisation, the Task Force on 3.6.1999 approved the leasing route. Government of India in January, 2000 approved restructuring of airports of Airports Authority of India through long term leasing route as and when found suitable. The airports at Delhi, Mumbai Kolkota and Chennai were taken up for this exercise at the first instance. The Financial Consultant and Legal Consultant for restructuring exercise were appointed in March, 2000 and March, 2001 respectively. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted to advise and monitor the entire exercise. The IMG met periodically to discuss and deliberate on various strategic issues. Pre-lnvestment Meets were held in New Delhi and London in April, 2002 to formally introduce the long term lease process. The Meet was attended by many Airport Operators, Financial Companies etc. An Amendment Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 30.11.2000 for

incorporating and enabling provision in the Airports Authority of India (AAI) Act, 1994 providing for leasing of airports. The Bill was referred to the Department Related Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture. The Committee tabled its report on 21.11.2002. As per the recommendations of the Committee, a comprehensive Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003 was introduced in the Parliament.The Bill as passed by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 9.5.2003 and 28.7.2003 respectively. Meanwhile, the restructuring through Joint Venture route was also considered. The Hon'ble Finance Minister in Budget Speech 2003-04 has *inter alia* announced that in addition to the existing initiatives for leasing of major airports, the Delhi and Mumbai airports will be taken up for modernisation to international standards through formation of two Joint Venture companies. Steps have been taken for incorporation of two separate companies for Delhi and Mumbai airports. The transaction structure is being finalised in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

Provison of modem hand trolleys at Raipur airport

2871. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether old designed and insufficient number of hand trolleys are in use at Raipur airport, Chhatisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to make available modern designed hand trolleys in sufficient number at Raipur airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) There are forty old designed Passenger Baggage Trolleys in use at Raipur airport. In addition, thirty new designed Passenger Baggage Trolleys have been provided in the month of July-2003.

(c) 200 new designed Passenger Baggage Trolleys will be provided by March 2004 at Raipur airport.